



## Russia's War On Western Democracies

Our speaker on February 27 is S. Mohsin Hashim, an award-winning political science professor at Muhlenberg College, who will discuss the growing tension between Russia and the West.

Dr. Hashim has done considerable research on post-Soviet Russia, particularly its political and economic transitions. He speaks fluent Russian and holds a masters degree in economics from Moscow State University. He earned his doctorate degree from Penn State in 2000.

Dr. Hashim teaches courses in Introduction to Comparative Governments, Developing Nations, and International Political Economy. He is the recipient of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (2007) and the Paul C. Empie Memorial Teaching Award (2011).

He is the author of several articles for the publications *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* and *Problems of Post-Communism*. They include "Putin's High-Modernism and its Limits - Assessing the Sources of State Incapacity in Russia," "Putin's Etatisation Project and Limits to Democratic Reforms in Russia," and "Shadows in the Past: The Varying Roles of Successor Parties in the Polish, Hungarian, and Russian Transitions."

## A Message from President Sellitto Regarding Our New Website

It is my pleasure to announce the unveiling of our organization's new, redesigned website. You will now, for the first time ever, be able to join or renew your membership and make reservations for upcoming dinner meetings and other events on line. Please share the site with friends who may want to know more about the Foreign Policy Association.

I would like to thank SoTactics, the company that built the website after winning the Request for Proposal (RFP) we released last fall. I also want to thank the committee who worked with me on the initial design and the selection of the vendor: Fay Geegee, Ann Glasscock, Chris McNally, Stuart Snyder, and Bob Glasscock, who is our new website administrator. Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to our former website administrator, Lou Thieblemont, for all his time and energy in behalf of the FPA.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts regarding the new website, with a NEW URL address as follows:

[www.fpaharrisburg.org](http://www.fpaharrisburg.org)

## February 27 Dinner Arrangements (Note that we meet on a Wednesday this month, so there is an earlier reservation deadline.)

**Place:** West Shore Country Club  
100 Brentwater Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

**Time:** 5:30 PM: Social Hour (Cash Bar)  
6:30 PM: Sit-Down Dinner  
7:30 PM: Presentation w/ Q & A

**Menu:** Tossed Green Salad  
Three Cheese Lasagna with Meat Sauce  
Garlic Bread Sticks  
Lemon Shortcake

*Those with special dietary needs may request a substitution when making a reservation. If you order a substitute meal, remember to pick up a coded tag at the table and put it by your place. Alternate meals will be chicken unless chicken is the main course – then fish will be the alternate or vegetarian, which will be chef's choice, typically non-meat pasta.*

**The cost for FPA members is \$30.  
We welcome non-members to attend dinners.  
The non-member cost is \$35.**

There is no charge for anyone to attend the program presentation only, beginning at 7:30 PM.

**For Reservations Contact: Ron Pontius at  
[ronpon@comcast.net](mailto:ronpon@comcast.net) or (717) 991-0899,  
or you can reserve on our new website:  
[www.fpaharrisburg.org](http://www.fpaharrisburg.org)**

**Reservations must be made by 10 AM Sunday, February 24. If you come for dinner without a reservation, the country club may charge a late fee of up to \$10 per person.**

When making or canceling a dinner reservation, give your complete *name, address and phone number*. We need that information to notify you if a meeting is canceled due to the weather or for any other reason.

**NOTE: We bill no-shows.**

No-shows will be billed unless there are sufficient walk-ins to meet the reservation number given to the West Shore Country Club.

**Contributions to FPA are tax deductible.**

Your contribution to the Foreign Policy Association is deductible to the fullest extent of the law under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

The Foreign Policy Association  
of Harrisburg, Inc.  
P.O. Box 60665  
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## Fight for Middle East Leadership

Scribed by Kylee Petritsch  
Lebanon Valley College

The Foreign Policy Association at its January 24 meeting heard three area experts on international affairs present their views on the contentious struggle for leadership in the Middle East. Here is a summary of their remarks:

**Christopher Bolan**, professor of Middle East security studies with the Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College: There is a perception that the U.S. is disengaging from the Middle East, which provides an incentive for other players in the region to become more aggressive. Because the U.S. no longer is dependent on Middle East oil, we have refocused our attention on Russia and China.

**Oya Dursun-Ozkanca**, college professor of international studies and associate professor of political science, Elizabethtown College: In its war against ISIS, the U.S. finds itself allied with a pair of adversaries, Turkey and the Kurds. Turkey is a major player in the region; it has the second largest army in the NATO alliance. Despite its NATO ties, Turkey is considering an agreement with Russia for a missile defense system.

**Robert Hamilton**, associate professor of Eurasian studies at the War College: Russia's short-term goal in Syria is to prevent the fall of the Assad regime. Russia's long-term goal is to stabilize its position in the region and to be taken more seriously as a global power.

Some 175 FPA members and guests attended the meeting at the West Shore Country Club.

### Paris and Normandy Cruise February 13 Information Meeting

The Foreign Policy Association is hosting an eight-day river cruise through the picturesque and historic French countryside of Normandy. The cruise both begins and ends in Paris. The dates are April 9-16, 2020. A no-obligation information meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, at the Giant Community Rooms, 330 E. Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA. If you plan to attend the meeting, please RSVP to Phyllis Skok at [jes\\_pss@verizon.net](mailto:jes_pss@verizon.net). If you can't make the meeting but still might be interested in the cruise, contact Phyllis at the above address and she will send you a flyer that contains more details. Last year, a group of FPA members traveled to Cuba for an entertaining and informative tour of that island nation. The Normandy cruise should be just as enjoyable.

### Embassy Trip May 8 - Japan

Our annual embassy trip to Washington, DC, is May 8. The focus is on Japan, one of the United States' most strategic allies and a major trading partner. For more details and a registration form, see the enclosed insert.

#### 2018-2019 Program Topics / Schedule All Events at the West Shore Country Club

**(Due to speaker availability, there has been a switch in topics for our March and April meetings.)**

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>Feb. 27</b>  | Russia's War on Western Democracies<br>(Note the meeting falls on a Wednesday.) |
| <b>March 28</b> | National Defense Strategy   |
| <b>April 25</b> | Current State of Arms Control   |
| <b>May 8</b>    | Embassy Trip to Washington, DC - Japan  |
| <b>May 16</b>   | Japan and East Asia   |

#### 2018-2019 FPA Officers

- |                   |   |
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